GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2209
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF PORTS
PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY;SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for improving infrastructural facilities of Ports in the country to international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI)

(a)to(c): Development of ports in the country, which includes improvements in infrastructural facilities is an ongoing process to cope with the demands of maritime trade. The plans for development of major ports are included in the Five Year Plans of the Government for the Port Sector. During the Tenth Five year Plan (2002-2007), an amount of Rs.4531.29 crores has been allocated for development of major ports. Out of this, Rs.450.00 crores are to be provided as budgetary support from the Government and Rs.4081.29 crores are to be raised by the ports concerned through their own internal and extra budgetary resources. In addition, an investment of about Rs.11257.00 crores by the private sector is also envisaged in major ports during the Tenth Plan Period.

The focus in the major ports during the Tenth Five Year Plan period will, inter-alia, be on improving productivity through technological upgradation, provision of cost effective services and enhancement of service quality. This is planned to be achieved through upgradation/conversion of existing conventional berths to suit emerging requirements; construction of new berths; upgradation of cargo handling equipment and maintenance procedures; redesigning and upgradation of internal road network and circulation systems where required; upgradation of storage facilities and other port infrastructure coupled with commercial accounting practices, improved equipment and labour productivity, optimization of work force, training, optimal use of information technology etc.

It has also been decided to develop a hub port each on the East and West coasts of the country, at Chennai and Jawaharlal Nehru Ports respectively and to develop an international container transshipment terminal at Vallarpadam, Cochin so as to tap the increasing potential for container traffic.